

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A lawnmower convertible between a bagging mode and a mulching mode, the convertible lawnmower comprising:

- a cutter housing having a discharge opening;
- an engine mount centrally positioned on the cutter housing;
- a prime mover supported on the engine mount;
- a rotary mulching blade coupled to the prime mover to rotate in a cutting plane about a rotation axis within the cutter housing;
- a cover movably mounted within the cutter housing in a plane parallel to the cutting plane and between a full bagging position where the discharge opening is unobstructed by the cover and a full mulching position where the cover obstructs the discharge opening; and
- a fin extending from the cover toward the cutting plane.

Claim 2 (Original): The convertible lawnmower according to claim 1, further comprising at least one position intermediate the full bagging position and the full mulching position where the cover partially obstructs the discharge opening.

Claim 3 (Original): The convertible lawnmower according to claim 1, wherein the cover includes:

a plurality of shutters extending substantially parallel to the cutting plane, the plurality of shutters stacked in a direction parallel to the rotation axis and slidable laterally relative to one another, each of the plurality of shutters including:

a first end; and

a second end;

a pivot connecting the first ends of the plurality of shutters to the cutter housing; and

a support spaced from and secured to the cutting surface;

wherein the second ends of the plurality of shutters are slidable along the support between a collapsed position where the plurality of shutters overlie one another, an intermediate position where the plurality of shutters partially overlap one another, and an extended position where the plurality of shutters extend laterally from one another.

Claim 4 (Original): The convertible lawnmower according to claim 2, wherein the fin extends from one of the plurality of shutters, the fin including:

a first end adjacent to the pivot; and

a second end including a slot extending toward the first end of the fin;

wherein the support extends into the slot.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The convertible lawnmower according to claim 4, wherein the cutter housing includes:

an inner scroll centered about the engine mount; and
an outer scroll centered about the inner scroll and the discharge opening being in the outer scroll;
the fin extending from one of the plurality of shutters toward the cutting plane and arcuately in ~~an a~~ direction substantially parallel to the cutting plane and the first end of the fin being adjacent the junction of the roof and the outer scroll.

Claim 6 (Original): The convertible lawnmower according to claim 4, wherein the second end of the fin is movable between a first position adjacent the inner scroll when the plurality of shutters are in the collapsed position, a second position adjacent the outer scroll when the plurality of shutters are in the extended position, and at least one position intermediate the first position and the second position when the plurality of shutters are in the intermediate position.

Claim 7 (Original): The convertible lawnmower according to claim 4, wherein the inner scroll includes a recess aligned with the fin and the one shutter, the fin and the one shutter received in the recess when the one shutter is the collapsed position.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The convertible lawnmower according to claim 4, wherein the support spans from the outer scroll to the inner scroll[[;]].

Claim 9 (Original): The convertible lawnmower according to claim 4, wherein the second end of each of the plurality of shutters extends into the space between the support and the cutter housing.

Claim 10 (Original): The convertible lawnmower according to claim 1, wherein the cover includes:

 a first shutter connected to a roof of the cutter housing adjacent the outer scroll;

 a second shutter movable relative to the first shutter and connected to the roof adjacent the outer scroll; the second shutter includes a first abutment and a second abutment; and

 a third shutter movable relative to the second shutter and connected to the roof adjacent the outer scroll; the third shutter includes a third abutment adjacent; the third abutment engages the first abutment when the cover moves toward the full mulching position and the third abutment engages the second abutment when the cover moves toward the full bagging position; and

 the fin extends from the third shutter.

Claim 11 (Original): The convertible lawnmower according to claim 10, wherein each of the plurality of shutters sequentially overlie one another as the cover moves from the full mulching position to the full bagging position.

Claim 12 (Original): The convertible lawnmower according to claim 3, wherein the fin lies intermediate the cutting plane and the discharge opening.

Claim 13 (Original): The convertible lawnmower according to claim 1, further comprising a ramp secured in the cutter housing proximate to the cover.

Claims 14-24 (Canceled).